

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) In a brush for cleaning surgical, medical and veterinary instruments comprising:

a length of flexible stainless steel wire formed into a first helical segment, a central loop segment and a second helical segment; a multiplicity of bristles; and, said first helical segment and said second helical segment tightly engaging one another forming a double helix having a length and capturing said bristles between said first helical segment and said second helical segment over at least a portion of said double helix length remote from said loop segment: the improvement comprising said bristles being antibacterial.

2. (Original) The improved brush of claim 1 wherein said bristles are antimicrobial.

3. (Original) The improved brush of claim 2 wherein said bristles are nylon based filaments containing an antimicrobial agent containing silver, zinc, and glass.

4. (Original) The improved brush of claim 3 wherein said brush prevents growth of certain bacteria, mold and yeast on said bristles.

5. (Original) In a brush for cleaning surgical, medical and veterinary instruments comprising:

at least one length of flexible stainless steel wire formed into a first helical segment and a second helical segment; a multiplicity of bristles; and, said first helical segment and said second helical segment tightly engaging one another forming a double helix having a length and capturing said bristles between said first helical segment and said second helical segment over at least a portion of said double helix length: the improvement comprising said bristles being antibacterial.

6. (Original) The improved brush of claim 5 wherein said bristles are antimicrobial.

7. (Original) The improved brush of claim 6 wherein said bristles are nylon based filaments containing an antimicrobial agent containing silver, zinc, and glass.

8. (Original) The improved brush of claim 7 wherein said brush prevents growth of certain bacteria, mold and yeast on said bristles.